

## A new Species of Flycatcher from Northern Rhodesia.

Mr. C. M. N. WHITE sent the following description :—

### *Batis kathleenæ*, sp. nov.

*Description*.—A species of *Batis* in which the female closely resembles the male in plumage, thereby differing from all other forms of *Batis* except *B. diops* of the Kivu-Ruwenzori region, which has a female exactly like the male.

*Male*.—Crown and whole upper surface grey, with very slight white flecking on the hind neck and lower back ; chin, throat, and sides of neck white ; a broad glossy black breast-band ; remainder of under surface white. Lores, ear-coverts, supra- and suborbital region black, this being slightly extended behind the eye. Wing blackish edged with greyish-white, median coverts with broad white tips forming a bar. Under wing-coverts and axillaries white. Tail black with tiny white tips.

*Female*.—Like male, but differing as follows :—Median wing-coverts edged with light rufous ; sides of breast below breast-band washed with pale orange-fawn.

*Immature female*.—Differs from adult in having back, but not crown, olive brownish-grey, much as in *B. capensis* ; lesser wing-coverts olive-brown, wing externally edged with buffy, throat shaded with buff, black breast-band less glossy and slightly mixed with pale orange, which colour is more pronounced on sides of breast.

*Measurements*.—Wing 61–65 mm. in four adults.

*Distribution*.—Evergreen areas on the Lunga and Mudwanyama Rivers near the Mwinilunga Boma, N. Rhodesia.

*Type*.—Female adult, Mwinilunga, Northern Rhodesia, January 12, 1940 ; collected by C. M. N. White. At present in author's own collection.

*Remarks*.—This striking new *Batis* is a bird of the evergreen forest areas. The appearance of the immature on the upper side clearly links it with *B. capensis*. I think the wisest course is to give it specific rank until the genus can be studied as a whole, when, perhaps, it will be found that several forest species can be treated as conspecific. The only

other *Batis* known from N. Rhodesia is the ubiquitous *B. molitor*, a very different bird.

I am indebted to Dr. Austin Roberts for notes on *B. diops* which show that the new form is considerably different from that species.

Named in honour of my sister, to whom I am much indebted for assistance in the working out of my Mwinilunga birds.

### Notes on African Birds.

Mr. R. E. MOREAU sent the following note :—

The correct Status of *Chloropeta similis* Richmond.

Mr. J. D. Macdonald in the Bull. B. O. C. lx. 1940, p. 82, and myself in Rev. Zool. Bot. Afr. xxxiii. fasc. 1, 1939, p. 8, have both overlooked the fact that Granvik, J. f. O. Sonderh. 1923, p. 126, has already noted that this species has twelve tail-feathers as against ten in *Chloropeta natalensis massaica* (Fisch. & Reichw.).

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### NOTICE.

The next meeting of the Club will be held at the Rembrandt Hotel, Thurloe Place, S.W. 7, on Saturday, June 7, 1941, at 2.30 p.m. This will be preceded by a luncheon at 1.30 p.m.

### AGENDA.

- (1) The Chairman, Dr. A. Landsborough Thomson, will give his Annual Address.
- (2) Capt. C. H. B. Grant will exhibit, on behalf of Mr. R. E. Moreau, two new races from Eastern Africa.
- (3) Capt. C. H. B. Grant and Lieut. C. W. Mackworth-Praed will exhibit a new species and two new races from Eastern Africa and Angola.